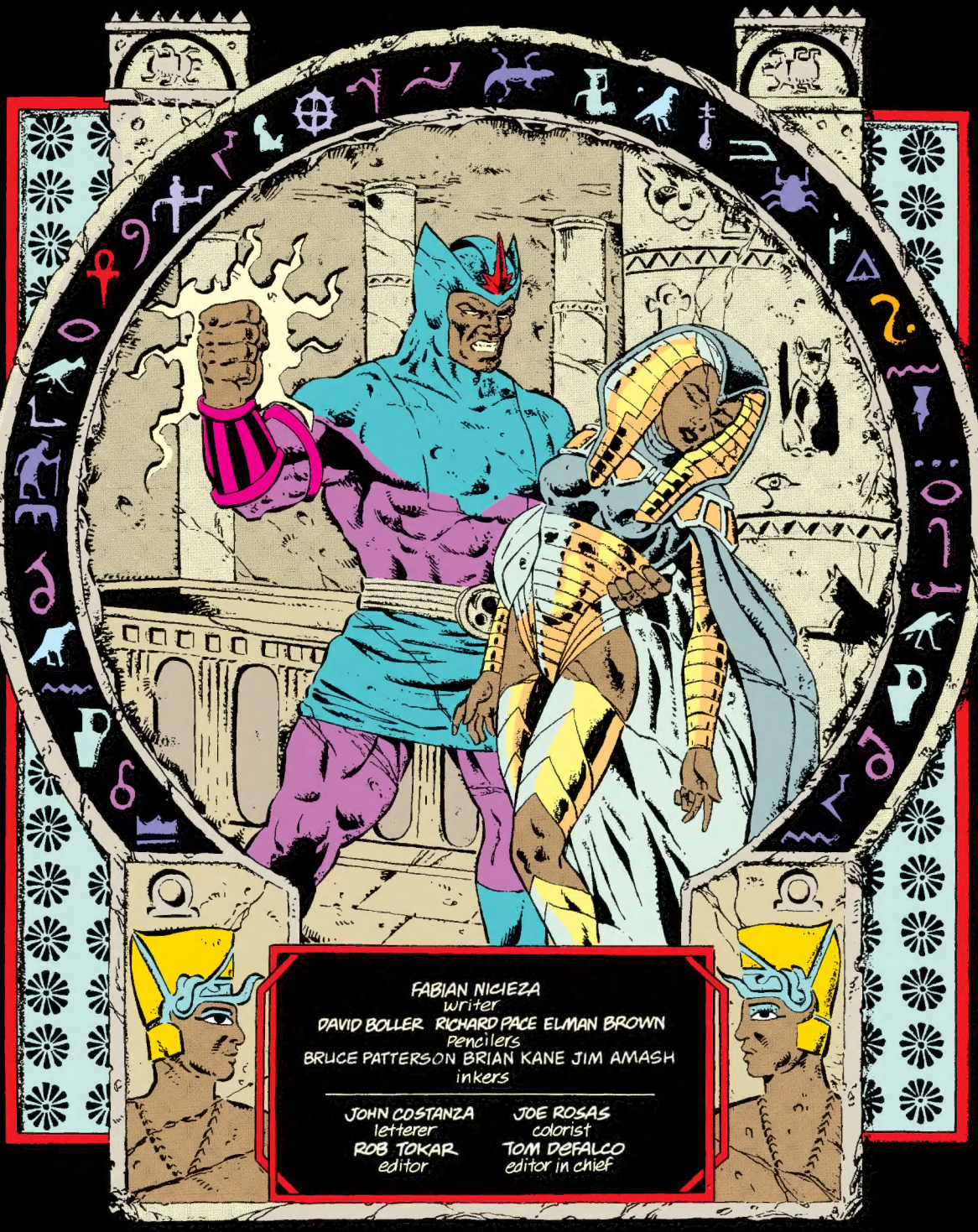
MARVEL COMICS
TIME AND TIME AGAIN
NIGHT THRASHER
JULY
12
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY

THE STORY SO FAR: Two immortal beings have begun a war waged for love and power. The male SPHINX has successfully stolen all of the near-infinite energy of the KA from his female counterpart. The New Warriors have been dismissed by the SPHINX, finding themselves trapped throughout time, while a new team of young heroes has been formed to try to rescue them!



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GATHERED TOGETHER BY THE SELF-PROCLAIMED GENIUS, HINDSIGHT LAD, THE NEW NEW WARRIORS--
POWERPAX
TURBO
DAGGER
DARKHAWK
BANDIT
--AIDED BY THE NOW-POWERLESS, BUT NO-LESS-DETERMINED LADY SPHINX, PREPARE TO CONFRONT THE SPHINX AND RESCUE THEIR MISSING FRIENDS!
THREE ARE PRISONERS OF TIME, MYSTERIOUSLY PLACED AT DIFFERENT JUNCTURES THROUGHOUT HISTORY THAT HAVE PERSONAL RESONANCE TO EACH OF THEM:
THRASH, IN THE OLD SOUTH, ABOUT TO BE LYNCHED AS A RUNAWAY SLAVE!
SILHOUETTE, HELD CAPTIVE AT THE TEMPLE OF THE DRAGON'S BREADTH, IN KAMPUCHEA--
--HER ONLY CHANCE OF ESCAPE IS HER OWN GRANDMOTHER, A FIVE-YEAR-OLD NAMED TAI!
KYMAERA, CAUGHT BETWEEN TWO WARRING FACTIONS OF HER PEOPLE IN ANCIENT ATLANTIS--
--BARBARIANISM VERSUS THE DAWN OF REASON--AND HER ACTIONS MAY ALTER THE COURSE OF HER OWN PEOPLE'S HISTORY!

NIGHT THRASHER
SLAVE TO THE PAST
ACT II
FOOTSTEPS SHUFFLE ON THE DRY GRASS.
I GOTTA SAY, BOY...
THE WET SOUND OF CHEWING TOBACCO SPIT OUT THROUGH FAT, GUMMY LIPS.
...FANCY CLOTHES OR NOT...
THE SCRATCHING FEEL OF THE THICK TWINE AROUND MY NECK.
...YOU IS GONNA HANG!!
THE MOMENTARY AIRBORNE SENSATION OF MY FEET DANGLING LIMPLY--

--AND THE WRENCHING TUG OF THE NOOSE ON MY THROAT--
SHKIKT
--ALL THESE SIGHTS AND SOUNDS SIMPLY MEAN THAT ENOUGH--
SHREKIK!
--IS ENOUGH!
HOLY BEEJEEZUS...
THUFFT
WITHOUT THE CYBERNETIC LINK MY HELMET PROVIDES, I HAVE TO MANUALLY ACTIVATE THE BLADE IN THE WRIST ASSEMBLY--

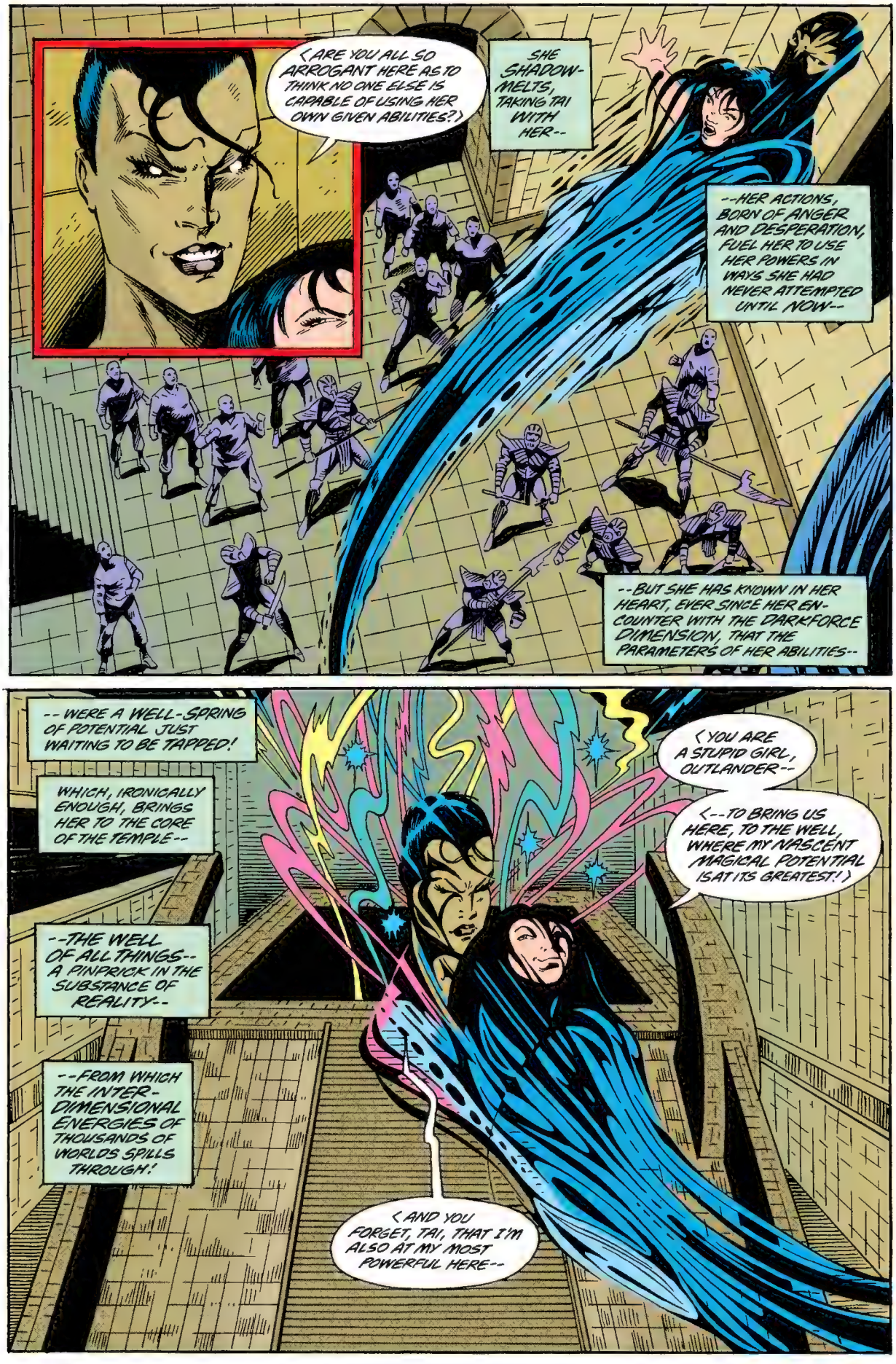
--BUT IT WORKS JUST AS EFFECTIVELY.
WOULD ANY OF YOU...
...LIKE TO BE NEXT?
YOU AN UPPITY BOY, AIN'TCHA--
-- SOME NORTHERN YANKEE WITH A BIG MOUTH, EH?
THAT'S JUS' FINE, BOY-- YER KIND JUST DIE LOUDER...
IT RISES UP FROM DEEP INSIDE ME, AND I CAN'T EVEN STOP IT.
SOME KIND OF INNATE ANGER--A DEEPLY ROOTED HATRED FOR WHAT THESE MEN ARE-- WHAT THEY STAND FOR.
SOMEHOW, I WAS SENT BACK IN TIME, TO THE OLD SOUTH--
--BUT UNLIKE SO MANY OF MY PEOPLE WHO WERE USED, ABUSED AND SLAUGHTERED FOR CENTURIES--

--I CAN FIGHT BACK!
I HAVE THE MEANS, THE INTELLIGENCE AND THE FORESIGHT TO TAKE THESE MEN DOWN--
--THE HARDER, THE BETTER--
--AND JUST MAYBE, MAKE THESE PIGS NOTHING MORE THAN THE FIRST STEP ON A LONG CLIMB--
--TOWARD BREAKING THE SHACKLES OF SLAVERY THAT UNJUSTLY BIND MY ANCESTORS!
IF I'M GOING TO BE TRAPPED HERE, I MIGHT AS WELL TRY TO MAKE THE SAME KIND OF DIFFERENCE THAT I DO IN MY OWN TIME.
I MIGHT AS WELL FIGHT FOR WHAT'S RIGHT.
MOSES -- THE PLANTATION YOU WERE RUNNING AWAY FROM--
--WE'RE GOING BACK--
--AND WE'RE GOING TO BURN IT TO THE GROUND!
NO-- YOU CAIN'T--

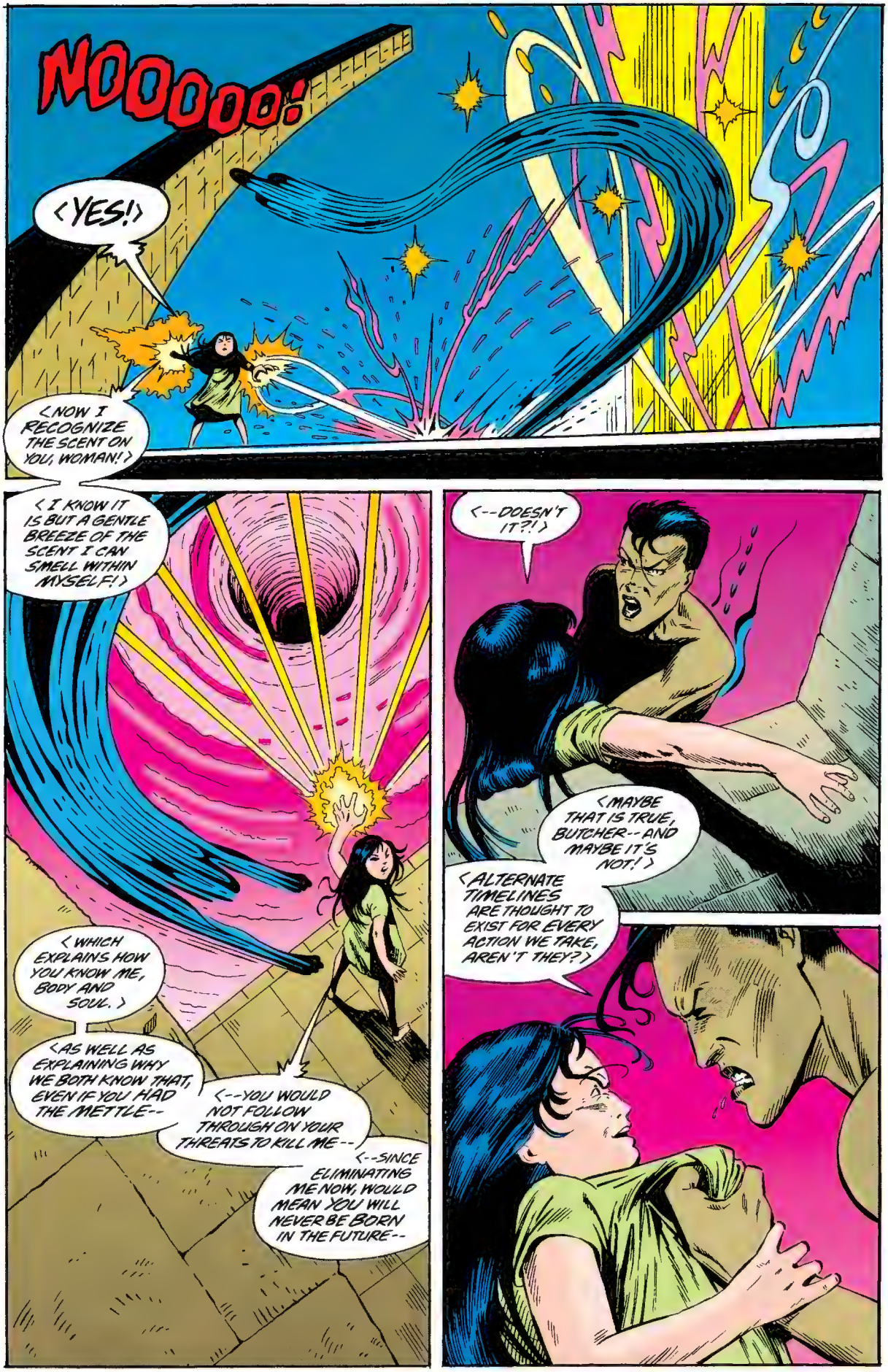
WHAT DO YOU MEAN, I "CAN'T"--?!
LOOK AT ME! LOOK WHAT I JUST DID TO THOSE ANIMALS!
WHAT MAKES YOU THINK I CAN'T DO IT TO THE PEOPLE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE MURDER OF YOUR WIFE--
--THE PEOPLE RESPONSIBLE FOR ROBBING YOU ALL OF YOUR FREEDOM?
IT JUS' WOULDN'T BE RIGHT, SUH--
DO YOU THINK YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO BE A SLAVE?
DO YOU HONESTLY BELIEVE THAT YOU'RE INFERIOR TO THEM JUST BECAUSE OF THE COLOR OF YOUR SKIN?
NO, SUH-- I ABSOLUTELY DO NOT!
BUT YOU TAKE DOWN THE LEE PLANTATION-- THEN WHAT--?
WHERE DO ALL THOSE SLAVES GO?
NORTH-- WHERE THEY CAN BE FREE.
JUS' LIKE THAT?
IT'S A START.
THEN WHAT?

YOU GONNA FREE EV'RY SLAVE IN EV'RY PLANTATION ALL OVER THE LAND?
THAT WOULD BE IMPOSSIBLE...
AH RECKON SO,
WHAT DO YOU PROPOSE?
THAT YOU DO WHAT-EVER YOU CAN.
ONE COLORED FOLK AT A TIME.
STARTING WITH ME, SUH.
YOU HEP ME GET UP T'BOSTON--WHERE I CAN BE FREE--
--WHERE I CAN START A NEW LIFE--GET A PROPER EDJICA-TION--
--A PROPER JOB--AN' A PROPER WAY A' LIFE FOR ME AN' MY KIN T'COME.
IT WOULD BE A BEGINNING... MAYBE NOT ENOUGH FOR TODAY..
... BUT A START FOR TOMORROW.
A NEW LIFE FOR ME, A HOPE FOR ONE OF OUR OWN SOMEWHERE DOWN THE ROAD, SUH.
STOP CALLING ME SIR.
WHAS' YOU NAME THEN, SON?
TAYLOR.
A GOOD NAME FOR SOME-ONE WANTIN' A NEW START.
THE KINDA NAME SOMEONE CAN BUILD A SOLID FOUNDATION ON, I'M THINKIN'..
END

SILHOUETTE
To the Last Breadth Act II
HER GIVEN NAME TRANSLATES FROM ITS NATIVE KAMPUCHEAN TO "SILHOUETTE." HER AMERICAN LAST NAME IS CHORD.
AND NOW SHE IS, QUITE LITERALLY, A SHADOW BOUND BY THE STRANDS OF TIME.
TIED, BODY AND SOUL, TO THE ANCIENT TEMPLE OF THE DRAGON'S BREADTH, IN WHICH SHE NOW FINDS HER-SELF TRAPPED.
A STRUCTURE, AS WELL AS A PEOPLE, THAT SHE SAW DESTROYED IN HER OWN TIME.
<BACK AWAY OR I WILL SNAP HER LITTLE NECK!>
DESTROYED AS A RESULT OF THE CRAZED, POWER-MAD LUSTS OF HER OWN GRANDMOTHER--
--WHO SILHOUETTE GRIPS FIRMLY IN A LIFE-THREATENING CHOKE-HOLD.
THE GRANDMOTHER, NOW A FIVE-YEAR-OLD GIRL, WHO SIL KNOWS WILL GROW UP--
--TO BECOME THE SORCEROUS BUTCHER KNOWN AS TAI!
<THEY UNDERSTAND YOUR LIMITED COMMAND OF THE CAMBODIAN TONGUE, WOMAN-->
<--BUT THEY ASSURE YOU THAT IF YOU DO AS YOU SAY, YOUR OWN LIFE WILL BE FORFEITED BY YOUR ACTIONS!>


(ARE YOU ALL SO ARROGANT HERE AS TO THINK NO ONE ELSE IS CAPABLE OF USING HER OWN GIVEN ABILITIES?)
SHE SHADOW-MELTS, TAKING TAI WITH HER--
--HER ACTIONS, BORN OF ANGER AND DESPERATION, FUEL HER TO USE HER POWERS IN WAYS SHE HAD NEVER ATTEMPTED UNTIL NOW--
--BUT SHE HAS KNOWN IN HER HEART, EVER SINCE HER ENCOUNTER WITH THE DARKFORCE DIMENSION, THAT THE PARAMETERS OF HER ABILITIES--
--WERE A WELL-SPRING OF POTENTIAL JUST WAITING TO BE TAPPED!
WHICH, IRONICALLY ENOUGH, BRINGS HER TO THE CORE OF THE TEMPLE--
--THE WELL OF ALL THINGS--A PINPRICK IN THE SUBSTANCE OF REALITY--
--FROM WHICH THE INTER-DIMENSIONAL ENERGIES OF THOUSANDS OF WORLDS SPILLS THROUGH!
(YOU ARE A STUPID GIRL, OUTLANDER--
(--TO BRING US HERE, TO THE WELL, WHERE MY NASCENT MAGICAL POTENTIAL IS AT ITS GREATEST!)
(AND YOU FORGET, TAI, THAT I'M ALSO AT MY MOST POWERFUL HERE--

<WHERE I CAN READILY ACCESS THE RAW ENERGIES OF THE DARKFORCE DIMENSION--
<--FROM WHICH I DERIVE MY ABILITIES!>
<I CAN MELT MY ARM THROUGH ONE PORTION OF THE DIMENSIONAL CONDUIT WHICH I TAP--
<--ONLY TO HAVE IT EMERGE FROM ANOTHER ACCESS NEARER TO YOUR THROAT!>
<AND I CAN JUST AS EASILY REACH INTO YOUR VERY BODY AND TEAR YOUR COLD LITTLE HEART OUT, GIRL!!>
SHFTTHT SHSHKSSSS
<YOU DO HAVE SUCH ABILITY, I GRANT YOU THAT, OUT-LANDER--
<--BUT I CAN SMELL YOU-- THE DRAGON'S BREADTH IS BUT A BLUSH ON YOUR SOUL.>
<YOU HAVE THE MEANS WITH WHICH TO KILL, BUT NOT THE STRENGTH OF WILL!>
CHIKZZZT
<AND I MOST CERTAINLY DO!!>
SHAKRRAAKT


NOOOOO!
<YES!>
<NOW I RECOGNIZE THE SCENT ON YOU, WOMAN!>
<I KNOW IT IS BUT A GENTLE BREEZE OF THE SCENT I CAN SMELL WITHIN MYSELF!>
<WHICH EXPLAINS HOW YOU KNOW ME, BODY AND SOUL.>
<AS WELL AS EXPLAINING WHY WE BOTH KNOW THAT, EVEN IF YOU HAD THE METTLE--
<--YOU WOULD NOT FOLLOW THROUGH ON YOUR THREATS TO KILL ME--
<--SINCE ELIMINATING ME NOW, WOULD MEAN YOU WILL NEVER BE BORN IN THE FUTURE--
<--DOESN'T IT?!>
<MAYBE THAT IS TRUE, BUTCHER--AND MAYBE IT'S NOT!>
<ALTERNATE TIMELINES ARE THOUGHT TO EXIST FOR EVERY ACTION WE TAKE, AREN'T THEY?>

(MOST CERTAINLY, THAT IS THOUGHT TO BE TRUE--
(--BUT TWO CONSTANTS REMAIN THROUGH-OUT THEM ALL--
(IN THE MINDS OF MANY PEOPLE -- INCLUDING THE VERY RESIDENTS OF THIS TEMPLE WHOM YOU WILL ONE DAY SLAUGHTER--
(--KILLING YOU NOW WOULD BE THE MORAL THING TO DO!!)
(--THE WELL OF ALL THINGS--
(--AND AN INDIVIDUAL'S OWN SENSE OF MORALITY!)
(COME NOW, MY CONFUSED DESCENDANT-- WOULD YOU BE WILLING TO THREATEN THE VERY FABRIC OF REALITY--
(--OF TIME ITSELF -- OF YOUR OWN EXISTENCE--
(--TO SAVE -- WHAT--? A FEW HUNDRED RELATIVELY UNIMPORTANT LIVES?)
SILHOUETTE KNOWS THE QUESTION IS VALID, EVEN IF THE MOTIVES OF THE SOURCE ARE SELFISH.
CAN THIS GIRL EVER TURN OUT DIFFERENTLY?
CAN SHE BE SPARED THE LIFE OF A WANTON KILLER IF SHE WERE TAUGHT AND RAISED PROPERLY NOW?
ONLY TWO THINGS ARE CONSTANT, TAI SAID. AND SIL KNOWS THE ANSWER TO HER OWN DOUBTS.
SHE IS STARING INTO THE EYES OF A KILLER, NO MATTER WHAT AGE, NO MATTER WHAT TIME.
SO THE HARDEST DECISION SHE'S EVER HAD TO MAKE--

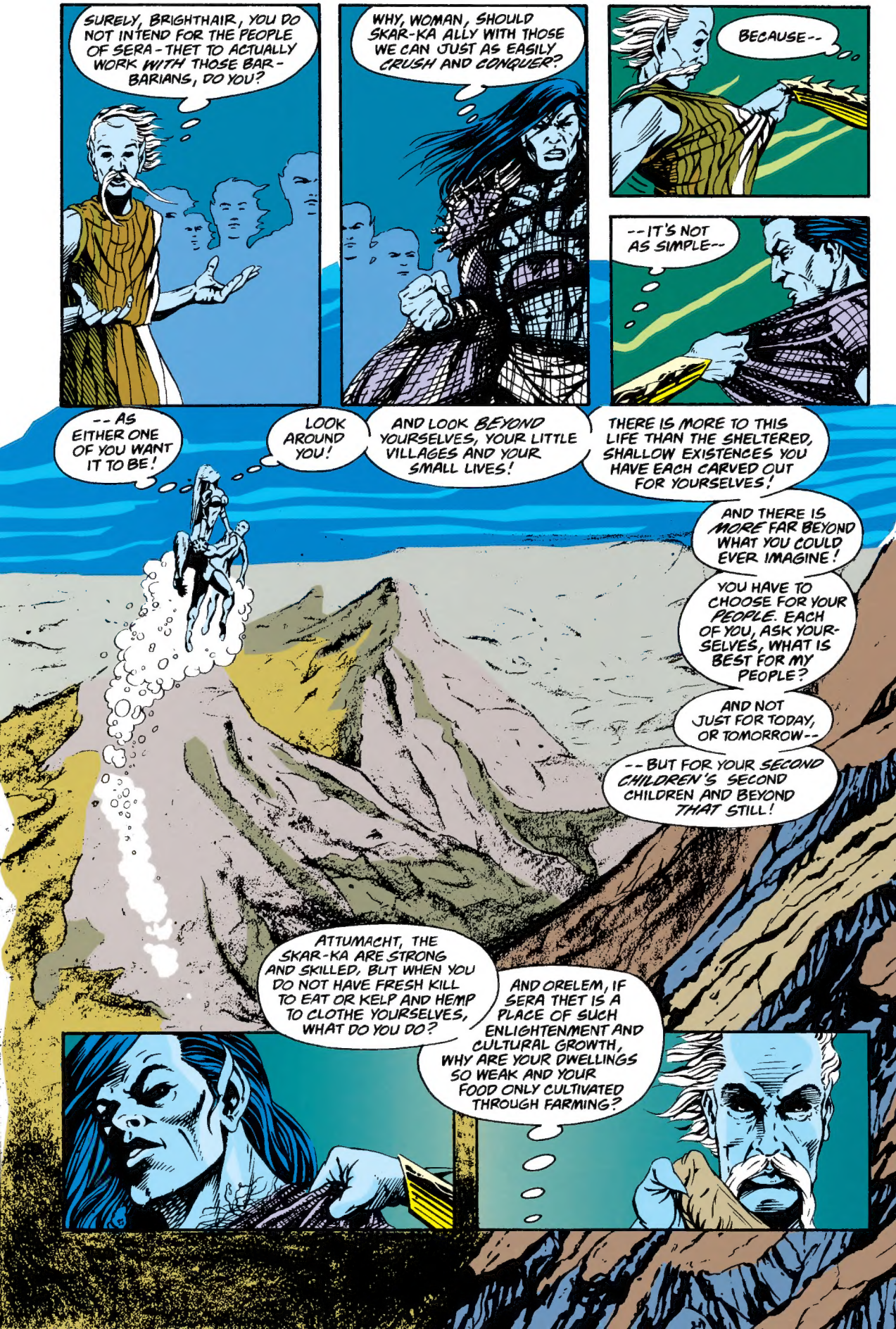
--BECOMES RELATIVELY EASY TO TAKE.
(NO--)
ARNNNYAA!
SHE HEARS THE CHILD'S SCREAMS UNTIL THEY ARE NO MORE--
--LOST IN A HOLLOW, FUSION-ECHO OF ENERGY AND FLESH.
THE WELL, FOR LACK OF A BETTER DESCRIPTION, BURPS, FROM THE "MEAL" IT HAS JUST BEEN GIVEN--
--THE SWIRLING ENERGIES CONTAINED WITHIN THE DIMENSIONAL NEXUS WASH OVER SIL LIKE A WARM BREEZE.
SHE MAY HAVE JUST KILLED A LITTLE GIRL.
(WHO WAS A THREAT TO ALL LIFE ON EARTH IN BODY AND SOUL)
SHE MAY HAVE JUST DRASTICALLY ALTERED HER OWN TIMELINE.
(BUT SHE HAS SAVED COUNTLESS LIVES)
AND HAVING CROSSED THIS ROAD--HAVING MADE THESE CHOICES--
--HAVING ACCEPTED THE CONSEQUENCES OF THESE ACTIONS--
--SILHOUETTE WONDERS... WHAT IS GOING TO HAPPEN TO HER NEXT?
END

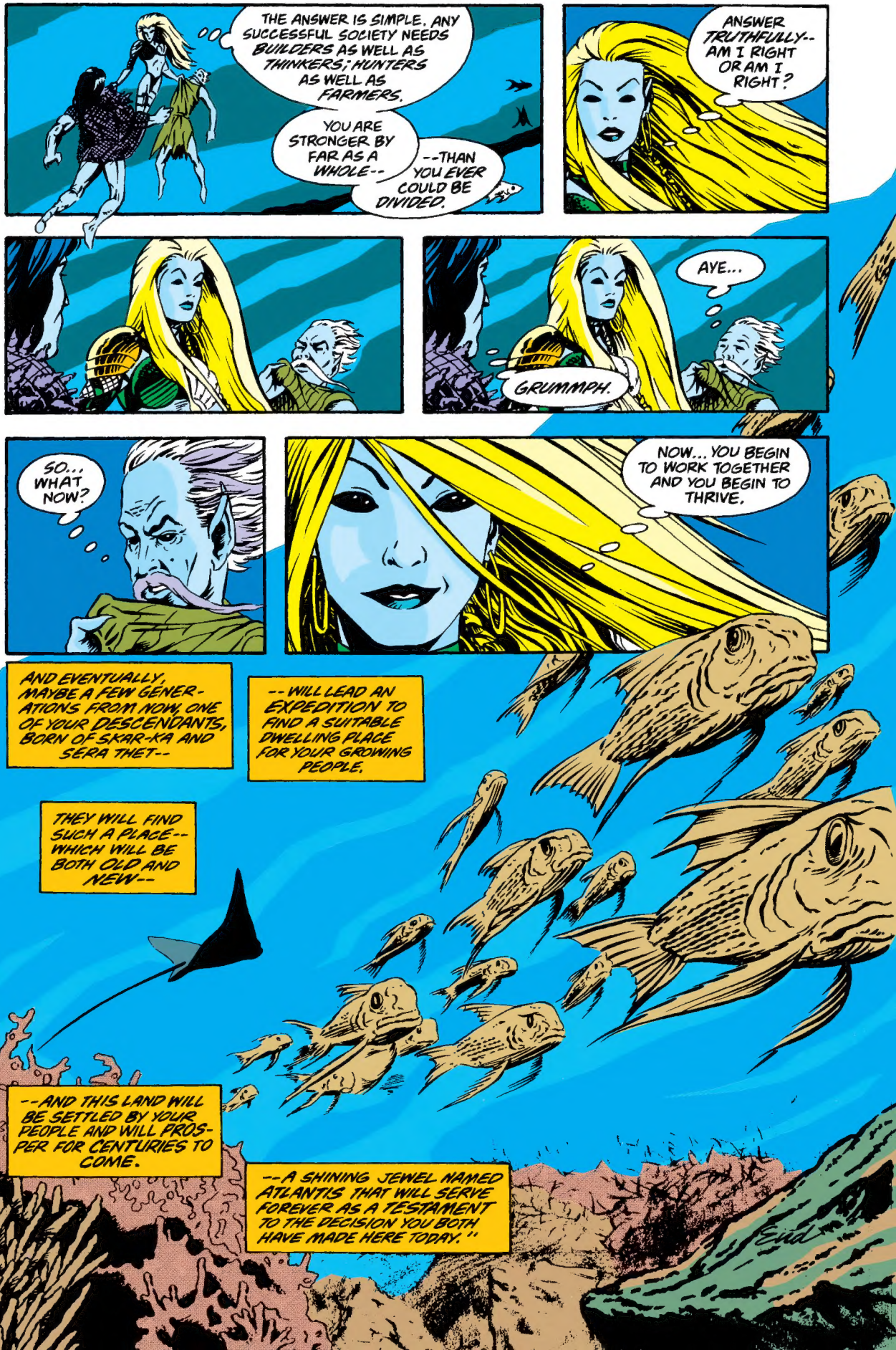
KYMAERA
BLOOD and WATER
ACT II
SHE DOES NOT BELONG IN THIS TIME, BUT THOUGHT THAT IF SHE WAS TRULY TRAPPED IN HER OWN PAST, SHE COULD TRY TO HELP HER ANCESTORS.
SHE WAS TRYING TO END THE FIGHTING THAT HAD PLAGUED MANY OF THE FRACTURED UNDER-WATER SETTLEMENTS ACROSS THE SEVEN SEAS FOR CENTURIES.
SHE THOUGHT THAT BY GIVING THE PEACEFUL, EDUCATED VILLAGERS OF SERA THET THE MEANS TO DEFEND THEMSELVES FROM THE BARBARIAN HORDES OF THE SKAR-KA--
--PERHAPS A NEW AGE OF REASON COULD DAWN FOR ATLANTIS.
WHAT NITA PRENTISS, THE ATLANTEAN HYBRID KNOWN IN OUR TIME AS KYMAERA, HAS DISCOVERED, MUCH TO HER DISMAY--
--IS THAT HER ACTIONS HAVE ONLY SERVED TO CREATE A SMARTER BRAND OF KILLER.

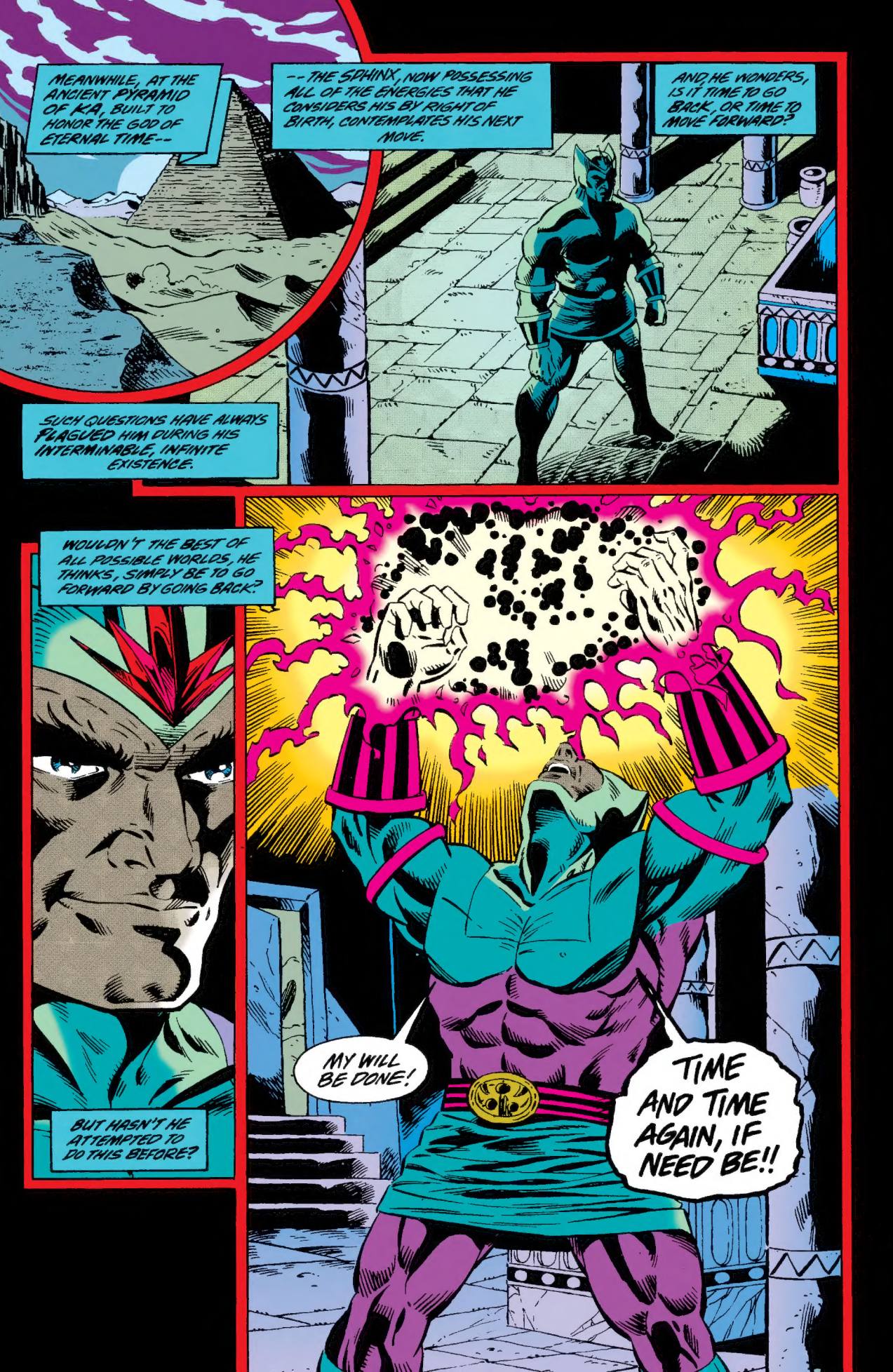
SHE CANNOT-- WILL NOT-- ALLOW THIS BLOODSHED TO STAIN HER SOUL.
ORELEM!!
YOU LIED TO ME!
I THOUGHT ALL THE WEAPONS I HELPED YOU CREATE AND THE FIGHTING TECHNIQUES I TAUGHT YOU--
--WERE ONLY GOING TO BE USED TO DEFEND YOURSELVES!
I DO NOT UNDERSTAND WHY YOU ARE SO UPSET, BRIGHTHAIR.
IS THAT NOT EXACTLY WHAT MY VILLAGERS ARE DOING RIGHT NOW?
NO! WHAT YOU ARE DOING IS TRYING TO SLAUGHTER THE SKAR-KA AND WIPE THEM FROM THE OCEAN SANDS!
KYMAERA, MY LADY, WE ARE AT WAR WITH SKAR-KA.
THEY HAVE RAPED, PILLAGED AND PLUNDERED MY PEOPLE FOR TIDE-SWELLS BEYOND MEASURE.
WHAT WOULD YOU HAVE US DO BUT DESTROY THEM?
SHE DOESN'T KNOW. AFTER ALL, WHAT ELSE COULD SHE HAVE EXPECTED?
THIS IS WHAT HER ANCESTORS DID FOR CENTURIES BEFORE THEY SETTLED THE NATION STATES OF ATLANTIS AND LEMURIA.

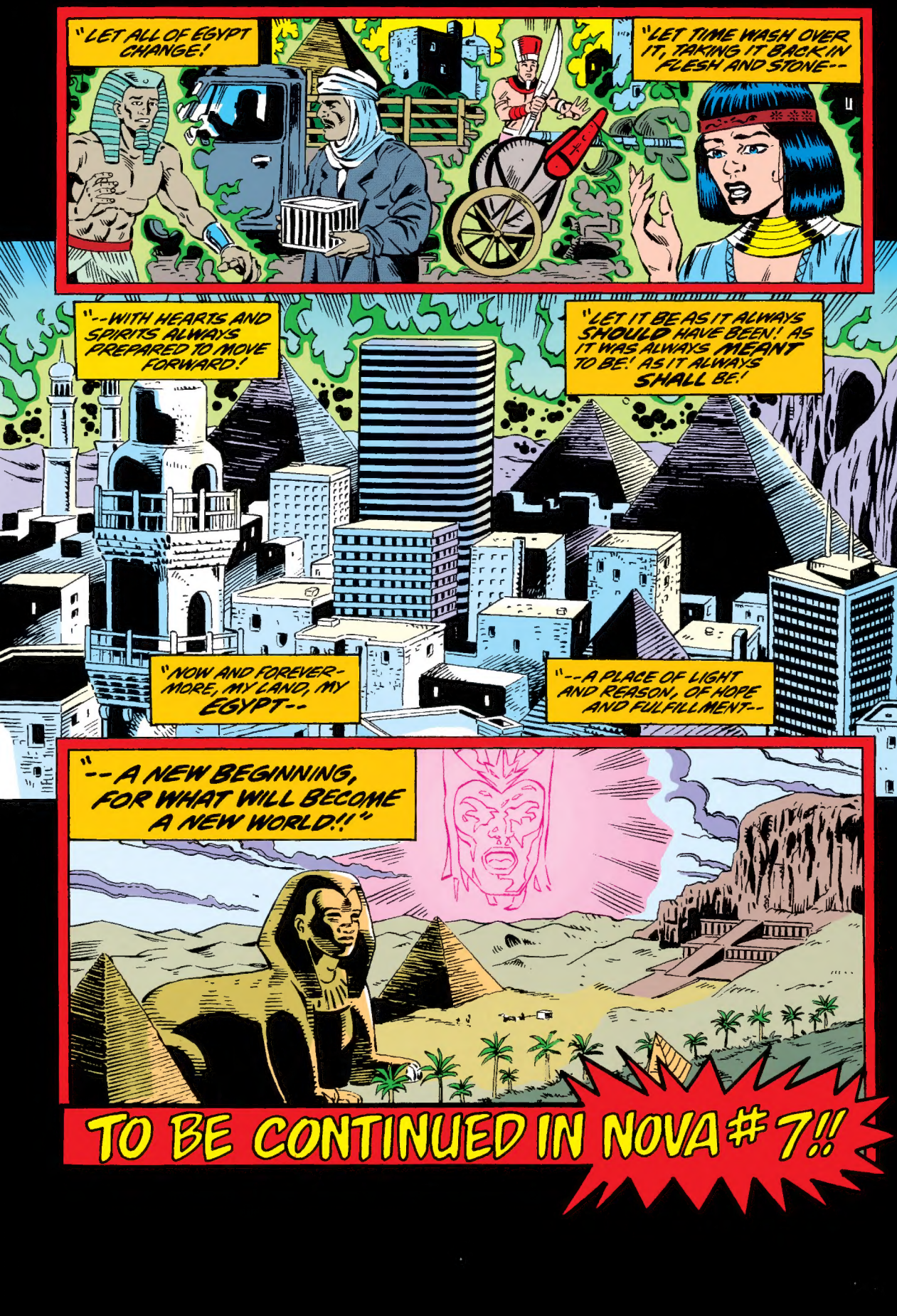
PETTY PEOPLE...
...FIGHTING PETTY SQUABBLES...
...PASSING PETTY HATREDS DOWN...
...FROM ONE GENERATION TO THE NEXT.
WOULD A VICTORY HERE BY MY PEOPLE NOT BE TO THE BETTERMENT OF OUR SPECIES' DEVELOPMENT?
NO, ORELEM...
...TOMORROW'S CURRENTS WILL NEED WHAT BOTH YOU AND THE SKAR-KA BRING TO OUR PEOPLE--
--STRENGTH OF FLESH AND SINEW, AS WELL AS REASON OF MIND AND SPIRIT.

I WANTED SO HARD TO FEEL THAT I COULD BRING A SENSE OF PURPOSE AND WISDOM TO ALL OF YOU, THAT I NEGLECTED TO DEAL WITH THE COLD HARD TRUTH.
I HAVE TO MAKE YOU UNDERSTAND THAT,
JUST LIKE I HAVE TO MAKE ATTUMACHT AND HIS SKAR-KA UNDERSTAND...
THE REALITY OF OUR EXISTENCE ON THIS PLANET, BENEATH OR ABOVE THE OCEAN WAVES, FOR BETTER OR WORSE--
--REQUIRES THAT A STRONG HAND BE PREPARED TO DEFEND AND PROTECT REASONED THOUGHT.
...IT IS NOT MERELY STRENGTH AND SUPERIOR WEAPONS THAT WILL SEE YOU THROUGH TO ANOTHER TIDE.
YOU WILL INEVITABLY ENCOUNTER SOMEONE WITH GREATER STRENGTH OR BETTER WEAPONRY-- AND WHERE WILL THAT LEAVE YOU?


SURELY, BRIGHTHAIR, YOU DO NOT INTEND FOR THE PEOPLE OF SERA-THET TO ACTUALLY WORK WITH THOSE BARBARIANS, DO YOU?
WHY, WOMAN, SHOULD SKAR-KA ALLY WITH THOSE WE CAN JUST AS EASILY CRUSH AND CONQUER?
BECAUSE--
--IT'S NOT AS SIMPLE--
--AS EITHER ONE OF YOU WANT IT TO BE!
LOOK AROUND YOU!
AND LOOK BEYOND YOURSELVES, YOUR LITTLE VILLAGES AND YOUR SMALL LIVES!
THERE IS MORE TO THIS LIFE THAN THE SHELTERED, SHALLOW EXISTENCES YOU HAVE EACH CARVED OUT FOR YOURSELVES!
AND THERE IS MORE FAR BEYOND WHAT YOU COULD EVER IMAGINE!
YOU HAVE TO CHOOSE FOR YOUR PEOPLE. EACH OF YOU, ASK YOURSELVES, WHAT IS BEST FOR MY PEOPLE?
AND NOT JUST FOR TODAY, OR TOMORROW--
--BUT FOR YOUR SECOND CHILDREN'S SECOND CHILDREN AND BEYOND THAT STILL!
ATTUMACHT, THE SKAR-KA ARE STRONG AND SKILLED, BUT WHEN YOU DO NOT HAVE FRESH KILL TO EAT OR KELP AND HEMP TO CLOTHE YOURSELVES, WHAT DO YOU DO?
AND ORELEM, IF SERA THET IS A PLACE OF SUCH ENLIGHTENMENT AND CULTURAL GROWTH, WHY ARE YOUR DWELLINGS SO WEAK AND YOUR FOOD ONLY CULTIVATED THROUGH FARMING?


THE ANSWER IS SIMPLE. ANY SUCCESSFUL SOCIETY NEEDS BUILDERS AS WELL AS THINKERS; HUNTERS AS WELL AS FARMERS.
YOU ARE STRONGER BY FAR AS A WHOLE--
--THAN YOU EVER COULD BE DIVIDED.
ANSWER TRUTHFULLY-- AM I RIGHT OR AM I RIGHT?
AYE...
GRUMMPH.
SO... WHAT NOW?
NOW... YOU BEGIN TO WORK TOGETHER AND YOU BEGIN TO THRIVE.
AND EVENTUALLY, MAYBE A FEW GENERATIONS FROM NOW, ONE OF YOUR DESCENDANTS, BORN OF SKAR-KA AND SERA THET--
--WILL LEAD AN EXPEDITION TO FIND A SUITABLE DWELLING PLACE FOR YOUR GROWING PEOPLE.
THEY WILL FIND SUCH A PLACE-- WHICH WILL BE BOTH OLD AND NEW--
--AND THIS LAND WILL BE SETTLED BY YOUR PEOPLE AND WILL PROSPER FOR CENTURIES TO COME.
--A SHINING JEWEL NAMED ATLANTIS THAT WILL SERVE FOREVER AS A TESTAMENT TO THE DECISION YOU BOTH HAVE MADE HERE TODAY."
End


MEANWHILE, AT THE ANCIENT PYRAMID OF KA, BUILT TO HONOR THE GOD OF ETERNAL TIME--
--THE SPHINX, NOW POSSESSING ALL OF THE ENERGIES THAT HE CONSIDERS HIS BY RIGHT OF BIRTH, CONTEMPLATES HIS NEXT MOVE.
AND HE WONDERS, IS IT TIME TO GO BACK, OR TIME TO MOVE FORWARD?
SUCH QUESTIONS HAVE ALWAYS FLAGUED HIM DURING HIS INTERMINABLE, INFINITE EXISTENCE.
WOULDN'T THE BEST OF ALL POSSIBLE WORLDS, HE THINKS, SIMPLY BE TO GO FORWARD BY GOING BACK?
BUT HASN'T HE ATTEMPTED TO DO THIS BEFORE?
MY WILL BE DONE!
TIME AND TIME AGAIN, IF NEED BE!!


"LET ALL OF EGYPT CHANGE!
"LET TIME WASH OVER IT, TAKING IT BACK IN FLESH AND STONE--
"--WITH HEARTS AND SPIRITS ALWAYS PREPARED TO MOVE FORWARD!
"LET IT BE AS IT ALWAYS SHOULD HAVE BEEN! AS IT WAS ALWAYS MEANT TO BE! AS IT ALWAYS SHALL BE!
"NOW AND FOREVERMORE, MY LAND, MY EGYPT--
"--A PLACE OF LIGHT AND REASON, OF HOPE AND FULFILLMENT--
"--A NEW BEGINNING, FOR WHAT WILL BECOME A NEW WORLD!!"
TO BE CONTINUED IN NOVA #7!!